

# The IDVA Update



Mitch Daniels - Governor  
Tom Applegate - Director

April 2006

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Spring Edition



Governor Mitch Daniels signs Senate Enrolled Act 75. To his right is the Adjutant General of Indiana, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger and to his left is IDVA Director, Tom Applegate.

## Governor Establishes Hoosier Veterans' Seamless Transition Program, Military Family Relief Fund, and Restores Remission of Fees Entitlement

INDIANAPOLIS (March 17, 2006) – Governor Mitch Daniels today signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Hoosier Veterans' Seamless Transition Program (HVSTP) to assist Active Reserve Forces, which includes the Indiana National Guard and Reserves, with the transition to civilian life upon returning from active-duty overseas. In addition, the Governor signed into law Senate Enrolled Act 75 which creates a military relief fund for the families of Hoosier veterans and restores a veteran's disability benefit.

"Our veterans have performed the most important public service of all. We are a state of patriots and we should do everything we can to assist and thank these men and women who have given so much for our benefit," said Daniels.

The program ensures that returning veterans are provided with assistance related to their transition from military active-duty to civilian life, including necessary medical care, information about

benefits and entitlements, and employment. The HVSTP is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Joint Forces Headquarters, U.S. Department of Labor, Indiana Workforce Development, and the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation, as well as other state veterans' service providers.

The Governor was joined today by Adjutant General R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Director Tom Applegate, and representatives from veterans service providers across the state including the American Legion, VFW, AMVETS, and the Disabled American Veterans.

"This program will bring first class transition services to Hoosier veterans," said Applegate. "During this legislative session Governor Daniels has taken action to support veterans who are very important to Indiana."

SEA 75 establishes the military relief fund which provides grants for the families of Hoosier members of the Indiana National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves who have been called to active duty since September 11, 2001. A portion of the money for the fund will be raised through the sale of a new Hoosier veteran license plate created through the bill. Also, SEA 75 restores the Remission of Fees benefit to the children of all wartime-era veterans who were disabled in the line of duty while serving their country, regardless of their disability rating, essentially restoring the benefit to its original language.



Seated are State Senator Mike Delph, (Rep. District 29); Governor Mitch Daniels; Lt. Governor Becky Skillman; State Rep. Troy Woodruff (Rep. District 64), and State Rep. Scott Reske (Dem. District 37). Standing in the back are former IDVA Commissioner Donald Peek; former AMVETS State Commander Paul Maiden; present VFW Commander Ron Martin; VFW Quartermaster Dave Havely; unknown Civil Air Patrol officer; Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Director Tom Applegate; Executive Director of the Indiana War Memorial Brig. Gen. Stewart Goodwin; unknown lady; American Legion Adjutant Steve Short; American Legion Rehabilitation and Benefits Director John Hickey; Military Veterans Coalition President Bob Book; and Adjutant General R. Martin Umbarger.

# Senate Enrolled Act 75

## Military Family Relief Fund and Restoration of Remission of Fees

SECTION 8. IC 10-17-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006]:

Chapter 12. Military Family Relief Fund

Sec. 0.5. This chapter applies after December 31, 2006.

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "active duty" means full-time service in:

- (1) a reserve component of the armed forces; or
- (2) the national guard;

for a period that exceeds thirty (30) consecutive days in a calendar year.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "armed forces" includes the reserve components of the following:

- (1) The United States Army.
- (2) The United States Navy.
- (3) The United States Marine Corps.
- (4) The United States Air Force.
- (5) The United States Coast Guard.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the veterans' affairs commission established by IC 10-17-1-3.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the Indiana department of veterans' affairs established by IC 10-17-1-2.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "director" refers to the director of veterans' affairs.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the military family relief fund established by section 8 of this chapter.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "national guard" means:

- (1) the Indiana Army National Guard; or
- (2) the Indiana Air National Guard.

Sec. 8. (a) The military family relief fund is established beginning January 1, 2007, to provide assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for families of Indiana residents who are:

- (1) members of:
  - (A) a reserve component of the armed forces; or
  - (B) the national guard; and
- (2) called to active duty after September 11, 2001.

(b) The department shall expend the money in the fund exclusively to provide grants for assistance as described in subsection (a).

(c) The director shall administer the fund.

Sec. 9. (a) The fund consists of the following:

- (1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.
- (2) Donations to the fund.
- (3) Interest as provided in subsection (b).
- (4) Money transferred to the fund from other funds.
- (5) Annual supplemental fees collected under IC 9-29-5-38.5.

(6) Money from any other source authorized or appropriated for the fund.

(b) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(c) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund or to any other fund.

(d) There is annually appropriated to the department for the purposes of this chapter all money in the fund not otherwise appropriated to the department for the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 10. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 for the provision of grants under this chapter. The rules adopted under this section must address the following:

- (1) Uniform need determination procedures.
- (2) Eligibility criteria.
- (3) Application procedures.
- (4) Selection procedures.
- (5) Coordination with other assistance programs.
- (6) Other areas in which the department determines that rules

are necessary to ensure the uniform administration of the grant program under this chapter.

Sec. 11. The director or a member of the commission may make a request to the general assembly for an appropriation to the fund.

Sec. 12. The director shall establish the capability to receive donations to the fund from the public on the department's Internet site.

SECTION 9. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006] (a) Notwithstanding IC 10-17-12-10, as added by this act, the director of veterans' affairs shall carry out the duties imposed on:

- (1) the director of veterans' affairs; or
- (2) the Indiana department of veterans' affairs;

under IC 10-17-12, as added by this act, under interim written guidelines approved by the veterans' affairs commission.

(b) This SECTION expires on the earlier of the following:

- (1) The date rules are adopted under IC 10-17-12-10, as added by this act.
- (2) June 30, 2007.

SECTION 10. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] The director of veterans' affairs, after consultation with the veterans' affairs commission, shall report to the budget committee before August 1, 2006, on the topics described in IC 10-17-12-10, as added by this act.

SECTION 11. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) The provision of P.L.246-2005, SECTION 9, that limits the Indiana department of veterans' affairs from considering new applications from dependents of veterans with disabilities not greater than zero (0) percentage does not apply to applications affecting academic years beginning after June 30, 2006.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2006, the appropriation for state student assistance commission statutory fee remission made by P.L.246-2005, SECTION 9, may be allotted and used for statutory fee remission related to dependents of veterans with disabilities not greater than zero (0) percentage.

SECTION 12. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006] (a) Effective January 1, 2007, the bureau of motor vehicles shall terminate the issuance of the Hoosier veteran license plate issued as a special group recognition license plate under IC 9-18-25.

(b) Notwithstanding IC 9-18-50-6(2), as added by this act, a person who was issued a Hoosier veteran license plate issued as a

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special group recognition license plate under IC 9-18-25 in 2006 is not required to present:

(1) a United States Uniformed Services Retiree Identification Card;

(2) a DD 214 record; or

(3) United States military discharge papers; to the bureau upon applying for a Hoosier veteran license plate under IC 9-18-50-6, as added by this act.

(c) This SECTION expires December 31, 2007.

SECTION 13. An emergency is declared for this act.

# Hoosier Veterans' Seamless Transition Program

## First workshop scheduled for April 29, 2006

On March 17, 2006, Governor Daniels signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, the Indiana National Guard and many other state agencies and departments, establishing a program to assist transitioning National Guard and Reserves back into civilian life.

The MOU defines mutually agreed upon requirements, expectations and obligations of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs; Joint Forces Headquarters; the U.S. Department of Labor; Indiana Workforce Development; the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation and other state veterans' service providers. Additionally, the MOU defines the partnership with the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, area Vet Centers and the local TRICARE office.

This agreement will augment the ongoing, comprehensive effort to ensure military service members and their families are honored for their valuable and honorable service to our country. It is recognized that the Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are providing world-class transition service upon return from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, and other mobilizations in support of the Global War on Terror to deal with the multitude of medical and mental conditions associated with war. This agreement will focus primarily on "after active-duty" and deal with problems and issues military members often face several months or years following military service and will focus on the completion of applications and claims.

The Adjutant General will direct each Commander to conduct a Family Activity Day within three to six months after returning from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle as part of their normal drill schedule. The Family Activity Day provides service members and their families personalized customer service in understanding and filing for Veteran's benefits and entitlements.

County Veterans' Service Officers (CVSO) will play a very important part in this process. Whenever a workshop is scheduled in a specific county, we hope the CVSO will lend his or her

services at the appropriate location to help complete state and federal applications and claims.

The first one-day workshop is scheduled for April 29, 2006, at Portage High School, Portage, Indiana. We have secured the auditorium, the commons area and the cafeteria to use for the various stations which the veterans will be required to report to in order to complete the workshop. Private areas will be arranged for trauma and readjustment counseling.

The National Guard is also arranging a special recognition ceremony for the veterans and their families at that same location.

In future workshops we hope to include the reserve forces as well as any active duty soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who have recently returned from deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

# Support Our Troops License Plate

The brainchild of Mrs. Mike Delph (State Senator from Indiana's District 29) the Support Our Troops License Plate was part of the legislation laid down in Senate Enrolled Act 75. Following is the excerpt from the bill concerning this plate. Additionally, a portion of the fees for the Hoosier Veteran license plate will go into this fund.

SECTION 5. IC 9-18-51 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006]:

Chapter 51. Support Our Troops License Plate

Sec. 1. The bureau of motor vehicles shall design and issue a support our troops license plate beginning January 1, 2007.

Sec. 2. A support our troops license plate must include the following:

(1) A basic design for the plate, with consecutive numbers or letters, or both, to properly identify the vehicle.

(2) A background design, an emblem, or colors that designate the license plate as a support our troops license plate.

(3) Any other information the bureau considers necessary.

Sec. 3. A support our troops license plate issued under this chapter may be displayed on the following:

(1) A passenger motor vehicle.

(2) A truck registered as a truck with a declared gross weight of not more than eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.

(3) A recreational vehicle.

Sec. 4. A person who is eligible to register a vehicle under this title is eligible to receive a support our troops license plate under this chapter after December 31, 2006, upon doing the following:

(1) Completing an application for a support our troops license plate.

(2) Paying the fee described under section 5 of this chapter.

Sec. 5. The fee for a support our troops license plate is the appropriate fee under IC 9-29-5-38.5(b).

SECTION 6. IC 9-29-5-38.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006]: Sec. 38.5. (a) A vehicle  
(continued on page 4)



## Support Our Troops License Plate *(from page 3)*

registered under IC 9-18-50 is subject to: (1) an annual registration fee;

(2) an annual supplemental fee of fifteen dollars (\$15); and (3) any other fee or tax required of a person registering a vehicle under this title.

(b) A vehicle registered under IC 9-18-51 is subject to:

(1) an annual registration fee;

(2) an annual supplemental fee of twenty dollars (\$20);

and (3) any other fee or tax required of a person registering a vehicle under this title.

(c) The bureau shall distribute the annual supplemental fees described in subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) that are collected from each registration to the director of veterans' affairs for deposit in the military family relief fund established under IC 10-17-12-8.

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## Senate Enrolled Act No. 5

### Limits Disorderly Conduct at Funerals

Signed into law on March 2, 2006, by Governor Daniels before it ever reached his desk, Senate Enrolled Act No. 5 amended the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure. Indiana was the 6th state to enact similar legislation, and federal legislation is being considered. The following is the text of this new law.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SOURCE: IC 35-45-1-3; (06)SE0005.1.1. --> SECTION 1. IC 35-45-1-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 3. (a) A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally:

(1) engages in fighting or in tumultuous conduct;

(2) makes unreasonable noise and continues to do so after being asked to stop; or

(3) disrupts a lawful assembly of persons;

commits disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) However, The offense described in subsection (a) is a Class D felony if it:

(1) adversely affects airport security; and

(2) is committed in an airport (as defined in IC 8-21-1-1) or on the premises of an airport, including in a parking area, a maintenance bay, or an aircraft hangar.

(c) The offense described in subsection (a) is a Class D felony if it:

(1) is committed within five hundred (500) feet of:

(A) the location where a burial is being performed;

(B) a funeral procession, if the person described in subsection (a) knows that the funeral procession is taking place; or

(C) a building in which:

(i) a funeral or memorial service; or

(ii) the viewing of a deceased person; is being conducted; and

(2) adversely affects the funeral, burial, viewing, funeral procession, or memorial service.

SOURCE: IC 35-45-2-1; (06)SE0005.1.2. --> SECTION 2. IC 35-45-2-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) A person who communicates a threat to another person, with the intent:

(1) that the other person engage in conduct against the other person's will;

(2) that the other person be placed in fear of retaliation for a prior lawful act; or

(3) of causing:

(A) a dwelling, a building, or another structure; or

(B) a vehicle;

to be evacuated;

commits intimidation, a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) However, the offense is a:

(1) Class D felony if:

(A) the threat is to commit a forcible felony;

(B) the person to whom the threat is communicated:

(i) is a law enforcement officer;

(ii) is a judge or bailiff of any court;

(iii) is a witness (or the spouse or child of a witness) in any pending criminal proceeding against the person making the threat;

(iv) is an employee of a school corporation; or

(v) is a community policing volunteer;

(vi) is an employee of a court;

(vii) is an employee of a probation department; or

(viii) is an employee of a community corrections program.

(C) the person has a prior unrelated conviction for an offense under this section concerning the same victim; or

(D) the threat is communicated using property, including electronic equipment or systems, of a school corporation or other governmental entity; and

(2) Class C felony if, while committing it, the person draws or uses a deadly weapon.

(c) "Threat" means an expression, by words or action, of an intention to:

(1) unlawfully injure the person threatened or another person, or damage property;

(2) unlawfully subject a person to physical confinement or restraint;

(3) commit a crime;

(4) unlawfully withhold official action, or cause such withholding;

(5) unlawfully withhold testimony or information with respect to another person's legal claim or defense, except for a reasonable claim for witness fees or expenses;

(6) expose the person threatened to hatred, contempt, disgrace, or ridicule;

(7) falsely harm the credit or business reputation of the person threatened; or

(8) cause the evacuation of a dwelling, a building, another structure, or a vehicle.

SOURCE: ; (06)SE0005.1.3. --> SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] IC 35-45-1-3 and IC 35-45-2-1, both as amended by this act, apply only to crimes committed after the effective date of this act.

SOURCE: ; (06)SE0005.1.4. --> SECTION 4. An emergency is declared for this act.

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# IDVA Annual Conference Scheduled for 26-29 June 2006

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Conference will be held from 26 to 29 June 2006 at the Marriott Inn East, 7202 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219, the same location as last year's conference.

Some new features have been added, and County Veterans' Service Officers are encouraged to bring their spouse along. Letters will be sent out to CVSOs the first week of April.

Following is the tentative agenda for the conference.

## Monday, 26 June 2006

**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Registration Table in Lobby  
**10:00a.m.** (tee off time) Golf Outing – Pleasant Run Golf Course. Golfers only. Not a mandatory event.  
**6:30 – 9:00 p.m.** Director's Reception - Marriott Inn-East – Patriot Boardroom - CVSO's, spouses, IDVA staff, other interested individuals. Also not mandatory, but everyone is encouraged to drop by and visit. You don't have to stay for the whole time.

## Tuesday, 27 June 2006

**7:00a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** Registration Table in Lobby  
**8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.** Salon A-E - Opening Ceremonies  
**8:10 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** Salon A-E - Governor Mitch Daniels (Tentative)  
**8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Salon A-E - Director's Comments – Tom Applegate  
**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.** Break  
**9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Classroom 4 - New Service Officer Training – John Hickey, American Legion (breaks as appropriate)  
**9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Salon A-E – Indiana Veterans' Home Panel – Bob Hawkins, Joe Fox, Lance Rhodes  
**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** Break  
**10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** Salon A-E – VA Regional Office Panel – Dennis Kuewa, Donny Flores, Bob Linden, Dave Dezern  
**11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.** Break  
**11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Salon A-E - Tax Abatements – Indiana State Auditor's Office  
**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Lunch – on your own  
**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Classroom 4 – New Service Officers – Review and Test  
**1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Salon A-E – State Benefits Panel – Jon Brinkley, Dave Varble (approximately 30 minutes each)  
**2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.** Break  
**2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Salons A-E – State Approving Agency – David Gray  
**3:30 PM - TBA** Indiana Veterans' Service Officers' Association Meeting

## Wednesday, 28 June 2006

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM** – Salons A-E – Veterans' Service Organizations Training - (breaks as appropriate)

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM** – Lunch

**1:30 PM – 4:30 PM** – Salons A-E – Veterans' Service Organizations Training (breaks as appropriate)

## Banquet

**6:00 PM – 6:30 PM** – Cocktails

**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM** - Dinner

## Thursday, 29 June 2006

**9:00 AM – 10:15 AM** – Breakout Rooms:

Roudebush VAMC – Susan Bowers

Northern Indiana Health Care System – Kathi

Spivey-Paul

Danville – Wanda Mims

Louisville –

Hines (Chicago) –

Dayton (Ohio) –

**10:15 AM – 10:30 AM** – Break

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM** – Test - Dismissal

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## Jim Kiser Resigns from State Service Officer Position

Jim Kiser, one of IDVA's State Service Officers for the past seven years, resigned his position effective March 10, 2006.

Jim was a loyal and dedicated employee and we are sorry to see him go. He elected to pursue other opportunities, including his interest in photography.

In his letter of resignation he said, "I have enjoyed my seven years serving the veterans of Indiana and working with all the wonderful people in this department and around the state."

Good luck, Jim. We'll miss you.



## Ron Rousch Joins SAA/IDVA Staff

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that Ronald Rousch, a retired United States Air Force Senior Master Sergeant, has accepted the position of Program Director within the State Approving Agency (SAA).

Ronald separated from the Air Force in 2004 after more than 20 years of active duty. While serving in the Air Force he started as an Air Traffic Controller and quickly moved up in rank and position until he completed his service at HQ Air Force Material Command as Superintendent, Air Traffic Control Training and Functional Management at Wright Patterson AFB, OH. While

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## Ron Rousch *(continued from page 5)*

there he was the functional manager for over 240 military and civilian personnel at 6 major installations. He has developed instructional products and coordinated educational content of educational materials, evaluating the instructional outcome for Air Traffic Controllers at several major installations, and reducing the training time by 50%.

A high school graduate from Greenfield, IN, his education also includes an AAS in Airway Science from the Community College of the Air Force and a BS in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He carries certificates in Instructional Systems Design, Academic Instructor, and Trainer and Task Certifier also.

The SAA serves several thousand veterans annually who receive education benefits from the VA. Ronald will not only work with colleges and vocational education but also apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs.

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## Governor Okays Flag-Lowering Authorization by IDVA

On June 10, 2005, Governor Daniels communicated a willingness to allow the Director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs to be the authorizing official for the lowering of flags to half-staff during the funeral of a member of a local veterans' organization Post.

We are aware that most Posts lower the flag to half-staff after learning of the death of a member and keep the flag in that position until after the funeral. There are those who, rightfully so, protest that the lowering of the flag is to be done only after authorization by the President of the United States or the Governor. We brought that to the attention of the administration with the following result.

To make the request, the requesting Post will contact the County Veterans' Service Officer (CVSO) or call IDVA directly to request authorization to lower the flag to half-staff during the period outlined below. If the request comes to the CVSO, the Service Officer will contact IDVA, which will authorize the action and fax or e-mail the pre-signed authorization to the CVSO. If the call comes directly to IDVA, the pre-signed authorization will be faxed or e-mailed to the number or person making the request.

The Director of IDVA will prepare a form, to be pre-signed by the governor, authorizing the requesting Post to fly the flag at half staff during a pre-determined period after learning of the death of a veteran, generally the period of time from death through the burial. IDVA will insert the date and other appropriate information on the form after receiving the request and either e-mail or fax the form to the CVSO or the requesting Post.

While we suspect that many Posts will lower the flag with or without this authorization, we encourage the veterans' organizations to ask for the written authorization. It can be done the same day and is another way the State can honor the veteran. County Veterans' Service Officers should notify the Posts in their counties that this authorization is available and IDVA will notify the State Headquarters of each of the veterans' organizations. When the Posts make the request they should include the name of the veteran, the period he or she served, and the date of death.

## Indiana Veterans' Home Accepting Applications

The Indiana State Soldiers' Home in Tippecanoe County at West Lafayette accepted its first patient in February of 1896 and was dedicated on the 4th of July that year. It was renamed the Indiana Veterans' Home in 1976.

The Veterans' Home (IVH) is a licensed long-term care facility (i.e. nursing home) operated by the Indiana State Department of Health - not the Veterans' Administration (VA) nor the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), although the Director of IDVA is a member of the Advisory Board.

Superintendent Bob Hawkins has notified IDVA that they are now accepting new patients. Following is his notification:

"Although we had a substantial waiting list last fall, that list has been almost eliminated now since we started admitting again in December.

"Our census is running around 280 now, and we do have several available beds in all units, except the Alzheimer's unit, and I think we will have vacancies there soon, too.

"We need to get our census back up to at least 300 by summer.

"I am hearing, third-hand that several VSO's (and others) still think that we are not admitting new applicants yet. In most cases, Indiana's veterans needing long-term care services can, in fact, have their needs better met here, in a "community of Veterans"; and, we want to be sure that all needing and desiring admission to the IVH have the opportunity to apply."

For questions or to apply, contact Jack Bessler, Administrative Social Worker (765-497-8671), or Rose Daniels, Applications Manager (765-497-8537).

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## The Indiana Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Wall

Following are the latest additions to the Indiana OEF/OIF Memorial Wall located in the Indiana Government Center-South in the hallway outside the offices of IDVA. This is a list of the casualties since the wall was dedicated on January 9, 2006.

The wall now contains 83 casualties.



Army Spc **Matthew C. Frantz**, 23, Lafayette, Indiana.

Assigned to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. Killed January 20, 2006, along with three other U.S. soldiers, when an improvised bomb blew up their Humvee near Al Huwajah, Iraq.



Frantz entered the Marine Corps after his senior year at Jefferson High School, but he suffered a serious knee injury before completing basic training. His father, Jim Frantz, said Matt was determined to stay in the Marine Corps despite his injury and took his appeal all the way to a general but lost.

He came home and worked as a salesman at Best Buy stores in Lafayette, Greenwood and Avon until his knee healed well enough for the Army to accept him. He joined the Army in March 2004 and was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., before his deployment to Iraq last October.

His military job in counter intelligence was perfect for him, according to his loved ones.



Army Private First Class **Brian James "BJ" Schoff**, 22, Manchester, TN, born in La Porte, Indiana.

Died on January 28, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq, while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to initial reports, PFC Schoff was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He was a gunner, had been in Kuwait and Iraq for two months and had served in the Army for two years.

He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His father, Brian, and stepmother, Debra Schoff, reside in Michigan City. His mother and stepfather, Cathy and Ken Odle, reside in Manchester, Tennessee. He was a member of the Baptist church in Manchester and was a graduate of Manchester High School. He loved to fish and play sports, especially soccer. He was outgoing, had a great sense of humor and loved and cared about people.



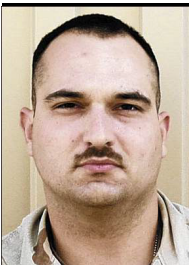
Army Sgt **Rickey E. Jones**, 21, Kokomo, Indiana

Died February 22, 2006, with three other soldiers when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad. Assigned to the 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, KY.

Ronnie Jones, the soldier's grandfather, said his grandson was a loving person and the pride of his family. He said the family received few details of the soldier's death.

The four soldiers assigned to the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team were killed on patrol Wednesday near Hawijah, 150 miles north of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

Jones, a 2002 graduate of Kokomo High School, was serving his second tour in Iraq and recently had been promoted to sergeant. He is survived by his mother, Tenia Rogers, and grandparents Ronnie and Margaret Jones, all of Kokomo.



Army Reservist, Spc **Joshua Lee Hill**, 24, Fowlerton, Indiana

Hill, a member of the 391st Engineering Battalion, was clearing a route in Kunar province in eastern Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated Sunday, March 12, 2006, killing him and three others.

"He was 30 days, 12 hours and 20 minutes from home," said his father, Terry Lee Hill of Fairmount, recalling

a telephone conversation the two had shared on Saturday, the day before the explosion. "He had it all figured out exactly."

Hill, a 2002 graduate of Madison-Grant High School in Fairmount, had joined the Army Reserve when his wife, Alexis, was expecting their first child, Jalin, who's now 6, the soldier's father said. The couple also have a 1-year-old daughter, Ariana.

"He thought it was the best thing to do because he was having a baby," Terry Lee Hill said. Joshua Hill also had completed a military tour in Iraq, his father said. He was studying nursing at Indiana Business College, and his interests included auto racing.

"He loved NASCAR. He was a Dale Earnhardt, Jr., fan," his father said.

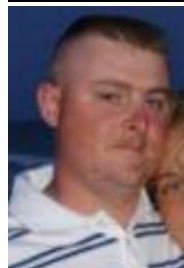


Army Spc **Antoine J. McKinzie**, 25, Indianapolis, Indiana

Spc. Antoine J. McKinzie, a 2000 graduate of Pike High School, was patrolling Baghdad in an armored Humvee, the apparent victim of sniper fire as he manned a machine gun on the Humvee, said his stepfather, Dwight Adams, Pike Township. He was killed Tuesday, March 21, 2006.

McKinzie served in the 27th Field Artillery Regiment in the Army's 4th Infantry Division and was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

"He felt like he was doing an important job," Adams said. "He was proud to serve his country."



Kentucky National Guard Staff Sgt **Brock A. Beery**, 30, originally from Warsaw, Indiana.

Staff Sgt. Brock A. Beery, 30, White House, Tenn., was killed Thursday, March 23, 2006, when his armored vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device near Al Habbaniyah, about 80 miles west of Baghdad. Beery was driving a fully armored light-medium tactical vehicle when the explosion occurred. Two other soldiers were injured.

Beery was a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, based in Bowling Green. He is survived by his wife, Sara, and a 7-year-old daughter.

A native of Warsaw, Ind., he was a full-time soldier with the Kentucky Army Guard and was on his third tour of overseas military duty. He previously toured in Egypt with the Indiana National Guard and Bosnia-Herzegovina with the Kentucky Guard.

## Indiana War Memorial Announces New Exhibit

Brigadier General Stewart Goodwin, Executive Director of the Indiana War Memorials Commission, recently made the following announcement:

"The Indiana War Memorials recently completed a new exhibit that presents unit patches/crests from the

*(continued on next page)*

## New Exhibit (continued from page 7)

Vietnam era. The items are from all branches of the services and are located in the Vietnam wing of the museum. The Indiana War Memorials Museum, located at 431 North Meridian St, Indianapolis, is open from Wed-Sun, 0900-1700. They invite you to come locate your patch and those units with whom you served. If you do not find your patch they welcome you providing your patch for display.”



## Director's Comments

This has been an extremely interesting and productive period. As reported elsewhere in this edition of the *IDVA Update*, the Remission of Fees program has been restored to its original state. The children of wartime-era disabled veterans will be able to attend state-supported colleges or universities regardless of the disability rating of the veteran.

I'd like to thank Governor Daniels for taking a personal hand in the restoration of this benefit, and I'd

also like to thank State Senators Mike Delph, Tom Wyss, David Long, and Allie Craycraft, and State Representatives Troy Woodruff and Scott Reske for their valuable help with Senate Bill 75 in general and this benefit in particular.

I'm also very excited about the Military Family Relief Fund. Grants from this fund could mean a great difference to the families of many Hoosier military members who are deployed away from home. I'll be working in the next few months to determine the eligibility of applicants and the general application procedures. I have until August of this year to develop those procedures, and, as you can see from the bill, the actual grants can start as early as January 1, 2007.

I hope that all CVSOs will strongly recommend to the veterans and other citizens in their communities to purchase the "Hoosier Veteran" or the "Support Our Troops" license plates in order to help support the families of our National Guard and Reserve soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines being sent into harm's way.

We hope you've enjoyed this special *IDVA Update* which focused exclusively on state matters and state benefits. We hope to do many more like this in the future.